

Testimony of

Daniel McInerney

On Behalf of the Connecticut Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors  
Association and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Energy and Technology Committee

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Governor's Bill No. 875: *An Act Expanding Connecticut's Offshore Wind Portfolio*

HB 7156: *An Act Concerning the Procurement of Energy Derived from Offshore  
Wind*

Chairman Needleman, Chairman Arconti, Ranking Member Formica, Ranking Member Ferraro and members of the Energy and Technology Committee. My name is Daniel McInerney and I am here to give testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) in support of the Governor's Bill No. 875: *An Act Expanding Connecticut's Offshore Wind Energy Portfolio* and HB 7156: *An Act Concerning the Procurement of Energy Derived from Offshore Wind*.

The Connecticut Chapter of NECA represents more than 100 electrical contractors both large and small, and the IBEW represents thousands of electrical workers in Connecticut; together we are a collaboration of management and labor working together to create a team of contractors with a highly skilled workforce that prides itself on safety and training in a constantly evolving industry with cutting edge technology.

We applaud both the Governor and the members of this committee for their foresight to expand the procurement of offshore wind in Connecticut. This expansion for procurement will increase the opportunity for the state to become a major player in the construction, supply chain manufacturing, and delivery of this new type of renewable energy to our country. The shallow waters of our Continental Shelf combined with some of the best wind, globally, position CT as an ideal location for wind-derived energy.

The development of New London state pier by the Connecticut Port Authority, with its direct access and lack of overhead obstructions to the ocean, is a great start point, providing developers an opportunity to prefabricate on a much larger scale than anywhere else along the east coast. This puts our state in a great position to expand our economy in the construction, supply chain manufacturing, delivery, and maintenance of the wind energy sector.

We would like to see the best points of the two bills merged into one bill. The expansion of 1000 megawatts in the Governors Bill to the 2000 megawatts in the House Bill, and the mandate for procurement in the Governor's Bill which is not in the House Bill. We commend the Governor and this Committee for recognizing the need for skilled labor and apprenticeship programs by requiring the selected bidders to pay prevailing wages and in the Governor's Bill, the requirement for project labor agreements.

Larger megawatt procurements will open the door for competition and the ability for other harbors with similar characteristics to New London to be developed, along with the opportunity for local economic growth that can be generated by this developing industry. We think that this is a terrific chance for the state to grow our economy for decades in a new and exciting green technology industry.

We would ask this committee to support these initiatives, combining their best features into one very strong bill and to send the message that Connecticut is positioned to be a major player in the newly developing offshore wind industry. Thank you for allowing me to address this issue.

Daniel McInerney

Connecticut Chapter national Electrical Contractors Association

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers